

Application No.: 10/824,831

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An erroneous operation preventing circuit of an electrically rewritable non-volatile memory device ~~for setting which sets~~ one or more ~~operational modes~~ of a plurality of operational modes including ~~at least~~ a first reading mode of reading out data from a memory array, a programming mode of writing data to the memory array, an erasing mode of erasing data from the memory array, and a second reading mode of reading out other data not stored in the memory array, in accordance with an input control command, and ~~for performing~~ a predetermined process in the ~~set~~ operational modes, the circuit comprising:

an operational mode enforcing circuit coupled to the memory array and configured to set for setting the first reading mode regardless of the input control command, in a data protection status where the programming mode and the erasing mode are inhibited from being set in accordance with a control signal for protecting predetermined data in the memory array.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The erroneous operation preventing circuit ~~of a non-volatile memory device according to claim 1~~, further comprising a data protection area specifying unit configured to specify for specifying a data protection area such that the data protection status ~~would be~~ is valid only in the specified data protection area in the memory array,

wherein the operational mode enforcing circuit sets the first reading mode regardless of the input control command, when the data protection area is specified by ~~means of~~ an input address in the data protection status.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The erroneous operation preventing circuit ~~of a non-volatile memory device according to claim 1~~, wherein the operational mode enforcing circuit ~~allows~~ sets the

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operational mode ~~to be set~~ in accordance with the input control command, in a status where the programming mode and the erasing mode are not inhibited from being set in accordance with the control signal.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The erroneous operation preventing circuit ~~of a non-volatile memory device according to any one of claim 1, wherein the control signal includes one or more of a control signal signals specified for data protection, a data-writing high voltage input signal, a data-erasing high voltage input signal and a data-writing/erasing high voltage input signal provided independently.~~

Claim 5 (currently amended): An erroneous operation preventing circuit of an electrically rewritable non-volatile memory device ~~for setting which sets one or more operational modes of a plurality of operational modes including at least a first reading mode of reading out data from a memory array, a programming mode of writing data to the memory array, an erasing mode of erasing data from the memory array, and a second reading mode of reading out other data not stored in the memory array, in accordance with an input control command, and for performing a predetermined process in the set-operational modes, the circuit comprising:~~

an operational mode enforcing circuit coupled to the memory array and configured to set enforcedly for enforcedly setting an inner level of a an associated control command input circuit which is coupled to the operational mode enforcing circuit to a an inner level corresponding to the first reading mode regardless of an input level of the control command, in a data protection status where the programming mode and the erasing mode are inhibited from being set in accordance with a control signal for protecting predetermined data in the memory array.

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Claim 6 (currently amended): The erroneous operation preventing circuit of a ~~non-volatile memory device~~ according to claim 5, further comprising a data protection area specifying unit configured to specify for specifying a data protection area such that the data protection status is ~~would be~~ valid only in the specified data protection area in the memory array,

wherein the operational mode enforcing circuit enforcedly sets the ~~inner level of the~~ control command input circuit to the ~~inner~~ level corresponding to the first reading mode regardless of the input level of the control command, when the data protection area is specified by ~~means of an~~ input address in the data protection status.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The erroneous operation preventing circuit of a ~~non-volatile memory device~~ according to claim 5, wherein the operational mode enforcing circuit sets the ~~inner level of the~~ control command input circuit to the ~~inner~~ level corresponding to the input level of the control command, in a status where the programming mode and the erasing mode are not inhibited from being set in accordance with the control signal.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The erroneous operation preventing circuit of a ~~non-volatile memory device~~ according to ~~any one of~~ claim 5, wherein the control signal includes one or more of a control signals ~~signal~~ specified for data protection, a data-writing high voltage input signal, a data-erasing high voltage input signal and a data-writing/erasing high voltage input signal ~~provided independently~~.

Claim 9 (new): The erroneous operation preventing circuit according to claim 1, wherein, in the data protection status, data input to the memory device is disabled and input of control commands is prevented.

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Claim 10 (new): The erroneous operation preventing circuit according to claim 5, wherein, in the data protection status, data input to the memory device is disabled and input of control commands is prevented.

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